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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An MIM capacitor comprising:

a lower electrode comprising a plurality of metal layers including a top metal layer;

an upper electrode; and

a dielectric layer positioned between said lower electrode and said upper electrode.

wherein the entire surface of the top metal layer is exidized to form includes an insulating metal oxide layer disposed on the entire surface thereof.

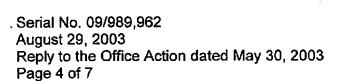
Claim 2 (original): An MIM capacitor according to Claim 1, wherein the top metal layer comprises a material selected from transition metals and alloys thereof which are capable of forming insulating layers by oxidation.

Claim 3 (original): An MIM capacitor according to Claim 1, wherein the top metal layer comprises titanium.

Claim 4 (original): An MIM capacitor according to Claim 1, wherein said dielectric layer comprises silicon nitride.

Claim 5 (original): An MIM capacitor according to Claim 4, wherein the surface of said dielectric layer is oxidized to form an oxidized silicon nitride layer.





Claims 6-10 (canceled).



Claim 11 (original): A microwave monolithic integrated circuit comprising an MIM capacitor as set forth in Claim 1.

Claim 12 (canceled).